

## SENATE BILL No. 532

### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 11-10-13.

**Synopsis:** Indiana learning and family center. Requires the department of correction to establish an Indiana learning and family center. Provides that the center's purpose is to offer family and educational services to criminal offenders and their families and to the community in an effort to curtail criminal behavior that is perpetuated by a poor educational background and lack of services and resources. Requires the center to establish numerous programs, including: (1) a community based literacy program; (2) a workplace skills enhancement program; (3) a summer enrichment program; and (4) a youth opportunity task force program. Provides that the center is to be comprised of both a learning center and a family center. Requires the learning center instructors and the family center advocates to cooperate to assist clients in accessing services most appropriate to their needs and goals. Requires the learning center to offer classes in the following areas: (1) Literacy. (2) Adult basic education. (3) General educational development. Requires the center to collect certain data relating to the center's performance.

**Effective:** July 1, 2001.

**Broden**

January 23, 2001, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections, Criminal and Civil Procedures.



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First Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2001)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2000 General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 532

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning corrections.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 11-10-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2001]:

4 **Chapter 13. Indiana Learning and Family Center**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "center" refers to the Indiana**  
6 **learning and family center.**

7 **Sec. 2. The department shall implement a plan to establish the**  
8 **Indiana learning and family center. The department shall select the**  
9 **site for the center's location.**

10 **Sec. 3. The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to**  
11 **carry out this chapter.**

12 **Sec. 4. The purpose of the center is to provide family and**  
13 **educational services to:**

14 **(1) criminal offenders and their families; and**

15 **(2) the community;**

16 **in an effort to curtail criminal behavior that is perpetuated by a**  
17 **poor educational background and lack of services and resources.**



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**Sec. 5. The center shall do the following:**

(1) Provide substance abuse and educational assessments to persons charged with an offense who use the center's services and forward the assessments to the court in an effort to divert appropriate offenders to treatment programs as a condition of probation or parole.

(2) Refer families and members of the community to the center activities that address their needs.

(3) Establish a community based literacy program for:

(A) criminal offenders and their families; and

(B) the community.

**Sec. 6. (a) The center must:**

(1) be comprised of both a learning center and a family center; and

(2) share a coordinator and administrative support.

(b) The learning center instructors and the family center advocates shall work cooperatively to assist clients in accessing services most appropriate to their individual needs and goals.

**Sec. 7. (a) The focus of the learning center shall be on providing educational services to the offender population and the community.**

**(b) The learning center shall offer the following classes:**

(1) Literacy.

(2) Adult basic education.

(3) Education leading to a general educational development (GED) diploma.

(c) The classes shall be offered free of charge.

**Sec. 8. (a) The center's methods of instruction shall differ according to a student's skill level as follows:**

(1) Individual instruction must be provided for a student who is functioning at the literacy level.

(2) Small group and lecture instruction must be provided for students functioning at the adult basic education and the general educational development (GED) diploma level.

(3) A customized computer assisted education program must be provided for students at all levels.

(b) The instruction must focus on reading, mathematics, language, writing, sciences, and social studies.

**Sec. 9. (a) The center shall develop a workplace skills enhancement program to assist individuals who are in the workforce to upgrade skills for more effective job performance.**

**(b) The classes and individual instruction must link work related lessons with job specific materials and situations, providing**

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both theoretical and vocational training. Other classes must allow employed persons to:

- (1) improve basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics; and
- (2) prepare for general educational development (GED) examinations.

Sec. 10. (a) The center shall establish a summer enrichment program.

(b) The program must offer:

- (1) youth workplace training;
- (2) part-time employment; and
- (3) half day educational instruction in reading and mathematics.

Sec. 11. (a) The center shall establish a youth opportunity task force program.

(b) The purpose of the program includes the following:

- (1) Decreasing the crime rate of youthful offenders by twenty-five percent (25%).
- (2) Decreasing gang activity by twenty percent (20%).
- (3) Increasing community involvement with youths through participation in community service projects.

Sec. 12. The program must provide intervention services to first time juvenile offenders.

Sec. 13. The center shall collect data on the following:

- (1) Number of offenders diverted to the program.
- (2) Number of community members using the program's resources.
- (3) Number of referrals made by the center.
- (4) Number of placements of participants in service and follow-up programs.
- (5) Average increase in the learning center participants' achievement levels.
- (6) Number of participants receiving general educational development (GED) diplomas or completing educational programming.
- (7) The learning center's effect on illiteracy and the local crime rate.
- (8) The level of community support for the center.

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